

Fig. 1 ♂

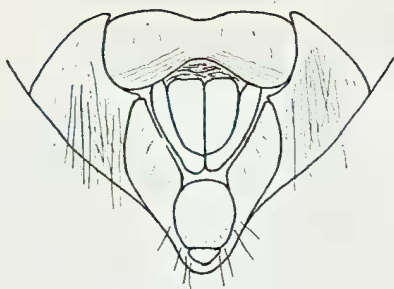


Fig. 2 ♀

Ventral view of terminal abdominal segments of last instar nymphal exuviae.

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A LIST OF DRAGONFLIES COLLECTED AT IRON RANGE, CAPE YORK PENINSULA FROM 10th-13th APRIL, 1971

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Iron Range is the name of the range of hills lying immediately to the east of the Claudie River and its tributaries located on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula at approximately 12° 45' S. The name is now applied to this part of the Claudie River district. The area contains tropical rain forest which is isolated from other areas of rain forest to the south and at the northern end of the peninsula. The dragonflies listed below were collected in the northern section of this rain forest along the road leading to Portland Roads between the Coen turnoff and the northern limit of the forest. Only incidental collecting of dragonflies was carried out, however, this not being the main purpose of the visit.

Suborder ZYGOPTERA

Superfamily COENAGRIONOIDEA

Family Coenagrionidae

1. *Aciagrion fragilis* (Tillyard) 1 ♂ 1 ♀
2. *Pseudagrion ignifier* Tillyard 2 ♂ 2 ♀
3. *Pseudagrion microcephalum* (Rambur) 2 ♂

Suborder ANISOPTERA
Superfamily LIBELLULOIDEA

Family Libelluliade

4. *Trapezostigma loewi* (Brauer) 2 ♂
5. *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius) 4 ♂
6. *Tholymis tillarga* (Fabricius) 1 ♂. This species was observed swarming in a group involving some 50 or more individuals. The swarm was seen each day always at the same place.
7. *Tetrathemis cladophila* Tillyard 1 ♂ 4 ♀. Previously recorded only as far north as Cooktown.
8. *Nannaophlebia lorquini eludens* Tillyard 1 ♂
9. *Orthetrum villosovittatum* (Brauer) 1 ♀
10. *Diplacodes haematodes* (Burmeister) 1 ♂ 1 ♀
11. *Neurothemis stigmatizans stigmatizans* (Fabricius) 1 ♂

These eleven species fall into two groups, those that are widespread in Australia (4, 5, 10) and those that are basically northern elements (1-3, 6-8 possibly 9, and 11). A similar pattern is shown by the several species recorded in Lieftinck (1951), 2, 9, 10 and 11, plus *Ischnura aurora aurora* (Brauer), which is very widespread and the northern *Acanthagyna rosenbergi* (Brauer) and *Lathrecista asiatica festa* (Selys). Watson (unpolished data) has records of four further species from Iron Range, all with northern affinities, *Notoneura coelestina* (Tillyard), *Agyrtacantha dinipta* (Karsch), an undescribed *Ictinogomphus*, and *Orthetrum sabinum* (Drury). Indeed, the rediscovery of *Agyrtacantha* from Australia, previously known only from a male collected by Elgner in 1910 at "Cape York" (Ris, 1913) gives hope that other New Guinea elements such as *Neurobasis australis* Selys, or *Rhinocypha tincta sensu tincta* Selys, the known Australian material of which is limited to two old specimens from "Cooktown" and "Cape York" in the Australian National Insect Collection (Watson, pers. comm.), may be rediscovered in Iron Range.

Certainly the known fauna of 19 species will prove to be only a small part of the total fauna of the area; Lieftinck (1951) listed 14 species from Cape York Peninsula an area which he considers however to extend as far south as Innisfail.

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